

March 8, 1990

LB 1141  
LR 239

visited about the role of having a student member of the board of trustees as a nonvoting member and about Senator Moore and his proposal to have the student have a vote and we decided, as a committee, in favor of that concept, that all too often in the past there had been problems in the current Board of Regents with the way the students have been just deprived any voice or any type of representation in the entire process. And there was a lot of testimony, as I recall, about how the student regents would never be included in phone call conversations or they would never be included in certain communications, written communications, how they were...would be able to attend the meetings but really have no part in the process or no voice in the process at all. And I think that what was on the committee's mind and I think on my mind when we decided to put into LB 1141 the provision that the students have a right to vote was that this would improve the process and at least give them some kind of voice in that process. Granted, the vast majority of the members of the board of trustees would be the appointed members but at least you would have one student who would be a representative who would have a right to express their view by way of a vote. Now, with respect to segregating different issues, there were other things that we changed in the committee amendments. For example, initially it was a seven-member board of trustees. We reduced that to five members. That is a change from what was proposed by the commission, but yet I don't see that being articulated as some kind of separate amendment in this bill. I have an amendment that will be pending on LB 1141 to have a faculty representative on the board of trustees. It seems totally inappropriate for me, upon reflection, to have appointed members to the board of trustees all appointed by the Governor and then allow a student to have a voice but not any faculty representation at all. I think that's one thing that should be considered that was not considered. If that is added to LB 1141, do we then come back and make that a separate constitutional provision? There were discussions in our committee meeting about whether the Board of Regents should all be appointed or all be elected. The current provision, I think, is that six are elected and five would be appointed. That's a controversial issue. Should we have that separate and apart as a different constitutional amendment to be voted on? I think you could go on and on and on.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time has expired, Senator McFarland.

SENATOR McFARLAND: Did I get a minute warning?